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PATENT  
450100-03370

2-13-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Satoru MAEDA et al.

Serial No. : 09/965,873

Filed : September 28, 2001

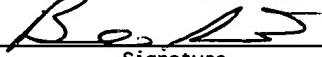
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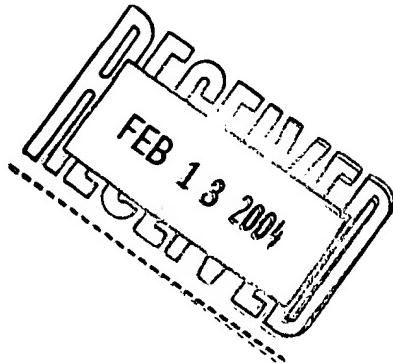
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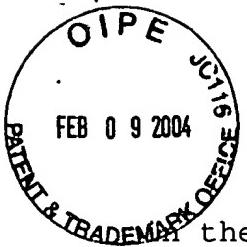
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)

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Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants are filing this Information Disclosure Statement and the accompanying form PTO-1449 along with copies of the prior art therein identified. Such prior art has come to the attention of applicants by being cited in a Search Report issued





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the corresponding European application on December 22, 2003.

So far as applicants are aware, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the documents identified herein constitute prior art to the present application.

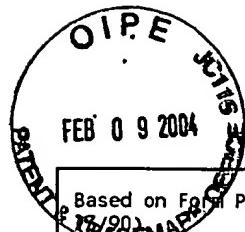
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Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Bruno Polito  
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Tel. (212) 588-0800



Based on Form PTO-1449  
17-901  
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**LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT**  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.  
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09/965,873

APPLICANT  
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FILING DATE  
September 28, 2001

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**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6 012 088	01/04/00	Li et al.			
	AB	5 862 339	01/19/99	Bonnaure et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AL	EP 0 793 170	09/03/97	Europe			
	AM	WO 00 14919	03/16/00	PCT			
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						

**OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

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EXAMINER

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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.